

**DETAILED ACTION**  
**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Guy Eriksen on 9/11/2009.

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:  
a Null-Packet Detector for processing a stream of fixed-length packets received by said apparatus as digitally encoded signals and having multiple packet types, each packet including a header portion and a data portion, the header portion including a sync byte,

wherein said Null-Packet Detector processes the stream by detecting whether a received packet is a null-packet and for identifying the location of the sync-byte of a detected null-packet, and

The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the Null-Packet Detector further generates a first Null\_flag signal to indicate whether a received packet is a null-packet and generates a second Null\_sync signal to indicate the location of the sync-byte of a detected null-packet.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a circuit adapted to insert a predetermined sync-byte value into the sync-byte position indicated by the second Null\_synch signal.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a filter adapted to filter the first Null\_flag signal and adapted to generate a Null\_lock signal a first value of which indicates that the stream contains a plurality of null packets.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 2-37 are allowed, and are renumbered as 1-36.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WANDA Z. RUSSELL whose telephone number is (571)270-1796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9:00-6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on (571) 272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kevin C. Harper/  
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